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It will be remembered that this cowardly action on the part of the British was only in keeping with the rest of their conduct in the Chinese war,—a war the most atrocious and cruel, against the most unoffending people on the face of the earth, waged to please the cupidity of a few English poison-venders! Well might the Emperor of China say, “Wherever Christians go they whiten the soil with human bones; and I will not have Christianity in my empire.” I am one, and I know there are thousands, who will join me in protesting against paying their money to keep up such a system as this. We are often told of our successful and glorious wars; but what do you think these glorious wars have cost us? Upwards of three thousand million pounds sterling, and 1,800,000 of the lives of Englishmen; and this country has paid five hundred millions to keep up a standing army and navy since the close of the war in 1813. (Shame, shame.)

It is well known that international differences have been settled to the satisfaction of all parties by a reference to friendly powers; and were it not that those who hold the reigns of government in their hands derive a large revenue for themselves and their friends from the system of war, that course might be universally adopted. I do not expect we shall obtain a removal of this enormous evil by our present representatives, when I find that there are in the House of Commons, two admirals, one general, one lieutenant-general, 7 major-generals, 22 colonels, 32 lieutenant-colonels, 7 majors, 67 captains in the army and navy, 12 lieutenants, and two cornets, making a total of 152 naval and military officers who vote away the people’s money to support naval and military establishments.

But this is only a small part of the corrupt influence which is brought to bear in support of this system. I doubt whether there are half-a-dozen aristocratic families, some members of which have not an interest in keeping it up. (Cheers.) For example, some field officers receive more than £6000 (\$30,000) per annum; and the expenses of the staff was £165,300; 198 unattached general officers received £187,000; 369 other general officers received £64,000; and 440 half-pay officers received 457,000; while 543 officers received, in pensions, £72,162. It is calculated that the Duke of Wellington alone has received £2,258,360 (\$11,000,000) of the public money, including his pay as a military officer, and calculating the interest on parliamentary grants. I understand that we have two admirals to every ship of the line.

Rev. Messrs. T. Morgan, T. Poxon, P. Sibree, Messrs. A. O’Neill and J. H. Wilson, spoke with great force in the same strain.

MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF PEACE.

No arrangement had been made for any public exercise on peace, except our regular anniversary; but friends of the cause, especially those from the country, were so earnest for a freer and fuller interchange of views on the subject, that a meeting was held on very short notice, and amid a great crowd of kindred gatherings, in the Marlboro’ Chapel on Thursday, May 29, at half past three and half past seven o’clock, P. M. The number present, though quite as large as could well have been expected, was, nevertheless, small; but the sessions, about two hours each, were filled with able, spirited and eloquent discussion.

SAMUEL E. COVES, Esq., was called to the chair, and ELIHU BURRITT, Esq., chosen Secretary. The following resolves were offered, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That the cause of peace has claims on the Christian community equal to, if not greater than, any of the other moral reforms of the age.
2. That all preparations for war, and all references to the decision of brute force, are unworthy of this Christian age, and incompatible with the religion of the gospel; that they obstruct civilization and the progress of Christianity, and impose a burden upon the laboring classes throughout the world too grievous to be borne.

3. That the principle of love to our enemies is the greatest element of omnipotence in the government of the Almighty, by which he subdues the rebels in his empire; and that the moral force of that principle is the only one given us of God to overcome our enemies, and that its defensive capacity as much exceeds brute force, as mind exceeds the force of inert matter.

On these resolutions remarks were made at some length by J. P. Blanchard, Rev. E. W. Jackson, Rev. B. D. Peck, of Grafton, Rev. Mr. Davis of Roxbury, Rev. Mr. Judd, of Augusta, Maine, Amasa Walker, Elihu Burritt, and S. E. Coues. Rev. Mr. Thurston, Jefferson Putnam, of Salem, Mr. Mitchell of Boston, Mr. Dana, of Brook Farm, Rev. Adin Ballou, Origen Bachelier, and Rev. G. C. Beckwith also took part in the discussion. We took copious notes, and wished very much to record some of the eloquent and stirring appeals that were made by nearly all the speakers; but our limits forbid. It was a meeting of deep interest to the friends of peace, and proved that the cause has begun to enlist in its bold and zealous advocacy not a few strong minds, warm hearts and eloquent tongues.

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